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UNCLAS KINSHASA 001981

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CUSTOMS BUREAU STRIKE RESOLVED - FOR NOW

REF: KINSHASA 1875

¶1. OFIDA (Customs) employees returned to work on October 11 after the government met some of their demands. The GDRC has promised to double the bonuses paid to the workers at the end of the month and to consider a salary increase in the 2005 budget.

¶2. Comment. It remains to be seen if the government will keep its promises. OFIDA is supposed to receive 5 percent of the revenues it collects in an incentive scheme. These funds have not been remitted, and they will be needed to finance the increased bonus payments. End comment.

MEECE